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1993 SEB Revival: Expansion Phase

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Post-SEB revival images of Jupiter were recorded at 4.6, 8.56 and 13.0 μm at Steward Observatory, using the Mid-Infrared Array Camera (MIRAC) on 3 - 6 June 1993 to map the longitudinal regeneration of the South Equatorial Belt (SEB) at the 250- and 600-mbar and as deep as 5 bar levels. These observations were recorded almost 2 months after the initial violent and dramatic onset of the SEB Revival, which occurred on 7 April 1993. Longitudinal recovery of the SEB is observed at the 13.0 μm level (near 500-mbar level) and the two equatorial belts (NEB and SEB) appear comparable. The 8.56 μm data, sensitive to the upper NH_3 ice cloud deck, reveal that the SEB is comparable to the NEB throughout the hemisphere preceding of the Great Red Spot (GRS), but has not recovered fully at other longitudes. However, the 4.6 μm data, sensitive to the radiances from the deeper levels of the atmosphere and cloud tops, show that the SEB is reviving as two distinct components - northern (SEB_n) and southern (SEB_s). The SEB_n is evident at all longitudes, albeit very faintly and with a hint of structure, but the SEB_s exhibits longitudinal inhomogeneity. These data imply that the SEB revival occurs on different timescales at various pressure levels and is still ongoing.

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